

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (previously presented) Gum base granules comprising at least one biodegradable gum base polymer, wherein the gum base has a water content of less than 5.0% by weight of the gum base.
2. (currently amended) Gum base granules according to claim 1,  
wherein said gum base ~~comprises solely at least one~~ is free of non- biodegradable polymers.
3. (previously presented) Gum base granules according to claim 1,  
wherein at least one of said biodegradable polymers comprises a polyester produced through reaction of at least one alcohol or derivative thereof and at least one acid or derivative thereof.
4. (previously presented) Gum base granules according to claim 1,  
wherein at least one of said biodegradable polymers is an elastomer comprising a polyester obtained by polymerization of at least one cyclic ester.
5. (previously presented) Gum base granules according to claim 1,  
wherein the gum base has a water content of less than 1.5% by weight of the gum base.

6. (previously presented) Gum base granules according to claim 1,  
wherein the gum base has a water content of less than 1.0% by weight of  
the gum base.
7. (cancelled)
8. (previously presented) Gum base granules according to claim 1,  
comprising at least one biodegradable polymer in the amount of about 1%  
to about 100% by weight of the gum base.
9. (previously presented) Gum base granules according to claim 1,  
wherein said granulated gum base comprises at least one high molecular  
weight elastomeric biodegradable polymer in an amount of about 0% to about 75%  
by weight of said gum base.
10. (previously presented) Gum base granules according to claim 9,  
wherein the molecular weight of said at least one high molecular weight  
elastomeric biodegradable polymer is from about 10000 g/mol to 800000 g/mol  
Mn.
11. (previously presented) Gum base granules according to claim 1,  
wherein said granulated gum base comprises at least one low molecular  
weight elastomer solvent in an amount of about 0% to about 90% by weight of said  
gum base.
12. (previously presented) Gum base granules according to claim 11,  
wherein the molecular weight of said at least one low molecular weight  
elastomer solvent is from about 1000 g/mol to 50000 g/mol Mn.

13. (previously presented) Gum base granules according to claim 1,  
wherein the gum base granules comprise sweetener in an amount of less than 50% by weight.
14. (previously presented) Gum base granules according to claim 1,  
wherein the gum base is free of lubricants, anti-adherents and glidants.
15. (previously presented) Gum base granules according to claim 1,  
wherein natural resins provide an improved and sticky texture of the gum base when applied in chewing gum formulation.
16. (previously presented) Gum base granules according to claim 1,  
wherein said gum base is wax free.
17. (previously presented) Gum base granules according to claim 1,  
wherein said gum base is fat free.
18. (previously presented) Gum base granules according to claim 1,  
wherein said gum base comprises filler in an amount of about 0% to about 50% by weight of the gum base.
19. (previously presented) Gum base granules according to claim 1,  
wherein said gum base granules comprise active ingredients.
20. (previously presented) Gum base granules according to claim 1,  
wherein said gum base comprises synthetic resin in an amount of about 15% to about 99% by weight of the gum base.

21. (previously presented) Gum base granules according to claim 1,  
wherein said gum base comprises emulsifiers and/or fats in an amount of about 10% to about 40% by weight of the gum base.
22. (previously presented) Gum base granules according to claim 1,  
wherein said gum base comprises wax in an amount of about 2% to about 30% by weight of the gum base.
23. (previously presented) Gum base granules according to claim 1,  
further comprising flavoring agents, wherein at least a part of the flavoring agents has been torn into the gum base or at least a part of the gum base previous to compression.
24. (previously presented) Gum base granules according to claim 1,  
wherein said at least one biodegradable polymer comprises at least one polyester obtained by polymerization of at least one compound selected from the group consisting of cyclic esters, alcohols or derivatives thereof and carboxylic acids or derivatives thereof.
25. (previously presented) Gum base granules according to claim 1,  
wherein said gum base granules comprise at least one non-biodegradable polymer.
26. (previously presented) Compressed chewing gum comprising the gum base according to claim 1.
27. (original) Compressed chewing gum according to claim 26,

wherein at least a part of said chewing gum polymers are non-biodegradable.

28. (previously presented) Compressed chewing gum according to claim 26, wherein said gum base granules are blended and compressed together with chewing gum ingredients, wherein the chewing gum ingredients are sweetener, flavor, fillers and emulsifiers.
29. (previously presented) Compressed chewing gum according to claim 26, wherein the water content is less than 1.5% by weight of the gum base.
30. (previously presented) Compressed chewing gum according to claim 26, wherein the water content is 0%.
31. (previously presented) Compressed chewing gum according to claim 26, wherein said biodegradable gum base comprises at least two biodegradable polymers.
32. (previously presented) Compressed chewing gum according to claim 26, wherein said biodegradable gum base granules are used together with non-biodegradable gum base granules.